(c) if not, whether in future assistance is likely to be provided for such NGOs all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ADN EMPOWERMENT (DR. S ANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Guild of Service, New Delhi has been in receipt of financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under Empowerment under the scheme, 'General Grant in Aid Programme for financial assistance in the field of Social Defence', for rehabilitation of widows in Vrindavan. During the last three years, it has been released grant in aid as under:

| Year | Grant released (Rs. in lakhs) | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | 8.30 | 90 |
| 2001-2002 | 15.60 | 88 |
| 2002-2003 | 12.69 | 109 |

Besides, in 2002-03, the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development, has provided financial assistance to Guild of Service for a project in Lunawada, Gujarat, for 50 riot affected women and 120 children. It has also been provided financial assistance for a project to rehabilitate 100 widows (terrorist violence affected) in Kupwara, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir under their scheme, 'Swadhar'.

**Policy for education of special children**

4600. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy for the education of 'Special Children' *i.e.* children suffering from Cerebral Palsy, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the achievements of the last three years of National Trust for Welfare of Persons suffering from Cerebral Palsy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Policy framework for education of disabled children has been laid down in the "Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995" which *inter-alia* casts obligation on appropriate Governments to provide for the following:

- Every child with disability shall have the right to free education till the age of 18 years in regular or special schools.
- Transportation, removal of architectural barriers and restructuring of curriculum and modifications in the examination system shall be ensured for the benefit of children with disabilities.

- Children with disabilities shall be provided books, scholarships, uniform and other learning material.
- Special schools for children with disabilities shall be equipped with vocational training facilities.
- Government run educational institutes and other educational institutes receiving grant from Government shall reserve at least 3% seats for admission of persons with disabilities.

Within the ambit of this framework the Ministry is implementing, a scheme through non-organizations, for setting up special schools and the Department of Secondary and Higher Education is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children. Children with cerebral palsy can therefore join regular or special programmes.

(c) The National Trust for Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, since its inception, has registered 334 NGOs and set up 369 Local Level Committees to address guardianships issues. Under the Reach and Relief Scheme 103 projects directly benefiting 5000 beneficiaries through Day Care Centres, Respite care centres, Permanent Care Centres and 100 Caregivers Training Programme benefiting 1400 home based caregivers have been sanctioned. Besides, Trust has taken initiatives in establishing information centres, organizing awareness campaign, seminars etc.

**Cases of harassment of deaf and dumb children in the country**

4601. DR C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cases of harassment of deaf and dumb children are on the increase in the country;

(b) whether Government envisage establishment of Special Police Stations to deal with the cases of deaf and dumb;

(c) whether any directions have been issued to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has no information regarding increase of cases of harassment of deaf and dumb children.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.